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June 12, 2006

The Honorable Leon Drolet  
Chairman, House & Energy Technology Committee  
State House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to our attention that a committee will meet this week to address citizen concerns of practices of cable companies in our community and other cable related problems.

I have been working with Macomb County Commissioner Don Brown, District 13. My name is Cy Rapezzi, a Washington Township resident, to address our concerns about only having one cable service and the pricing practices. There is no consistency in their pricing from community to community. The demographic group usually sets the prices and there is a large disparity in the pricing.

Gary Kirsh, Washington Township Supervisor, called our only local cable service as a potential customer, about cable costs. When he complained to the service representative that the prices were too high, the representative asked Gary where he lived and when he informed her that he lived in Washington Township, her reply was "well you can afford it". They denied it when Gary called back to speak with a supervisor. The pricing is based on median income and house size and prices. What the cable company refuses to take into consideration is that the greater portion of Washington Township infrastructure is modest homes that have been in the area for at least 30 or 40 years.

80% of these modest homeowners are on a fixed income or a lower yearly income. For most of the fixed income homeowners, television is the greater part of entertainment and the primary way to receive local, national and international news. These residents receive no consideration in pricing and what they do receive in programming is a lot of trash. They don't receive any senior discounts. Seniors in many other communities do.

We asked people in nearby subdivisions to call friends in other cities and townships to inquire about pricing. Basic, enhanced cable in the City of Warren is \$29.00 with a senior discount.

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Washington Township residents pay \$53.00 a month for the same service. Our local cable provider's response to this information was that prices are the same everywhere.

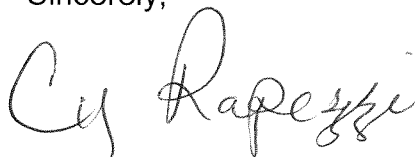
I called Don Brown, and he told me to count him in. I cannot begin to tell you how important his support and involvement has been. His knowledge and experience in government procedures has been invaluable in helping residents to reach their goal of lower prices, senior discounts and good, clean programming. This can only happen through competitive cable companies.

I have distributed petition forms to just a few local subdivisions. We received 500 signatures in less than three weeks. We currently have 25 more petition forms officials from our local western subdivisions and this should garner 500 more signatures.

I can tell you from personal experience, going door to door for petition signatures, usually one of two things happen. Either a door is slammed in your face or residents sign the petition just to get you off their porch. After explaining the purpose of our visit, we were invited in to talk about complaints, prices, and lack of senior discounts and poor programming. We appeared in *The Romeo Observer* about our campaign. I received a lot of calls from our neighboring communities. I had to explain that this was a Washington Township approach to our problems and that residents should speak with their City Manager or Township Supervisor about this issue. We welcome them to join us in presenting forms to prove considerable interest in bringing competitive rates to our region. It is the only way that we will be able to reform and have clean programming for our children. We urge you take all of these factors in consideration and make the appropriate changes.

Respectfully, I am unable at this time to attend your meeting, as I am recovering from knee replacement surgery. However, if needed, I will make myself available in the near future. I am always available for phone conversations. You may contact me at (586) 786-0442.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cy Rapezzi". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Cy Rapezzi